

## REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the subject application as amended. In response to the Office Action mailed 7/30/03, Applicant is filing this amendment. Please amend claims 1, 9, 17, 19, 22, 24, 31, 32, 40 and 42. Accordingly, claims 1-48 are still pending.

In the Office Action mailed 7/30/03, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-48 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Yang (U.S. Patent 6,467,002). Applicant submits that Yang fails to disclose the elements of the independent claims, as amended. Yang discloses a method and system for priority arbitration in which a shared device 199 receives access requests from devices 110, 120, 130, 140 (see Figure 1A-1C of Yang). An arbiter 101 determines the order in which the requesting devices is granted access (col. 5, lines 5-11). An arbitration circuit 102 (Figure 1D) is included within arbiter 101 of Figure 1A (col. 5, lines 35-37).

The embodiments of the present invention, as now recited in the amended independent claims, claim a distributed arbiter. The distributed arbiter is included with the agent and/or with respective agents of plurality of agents coupled onto a bus. Accordingly, Applicant submits that a distributed arbiter is not disclosed in Yang.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests for the withdrawal of the rejections based on 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and further requests for the allowance of pending claims 1-48, as amended.

If there are any fee shortages related to this response, please charge such fee shortages to Deposit Account No. 50-2126.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date below:

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